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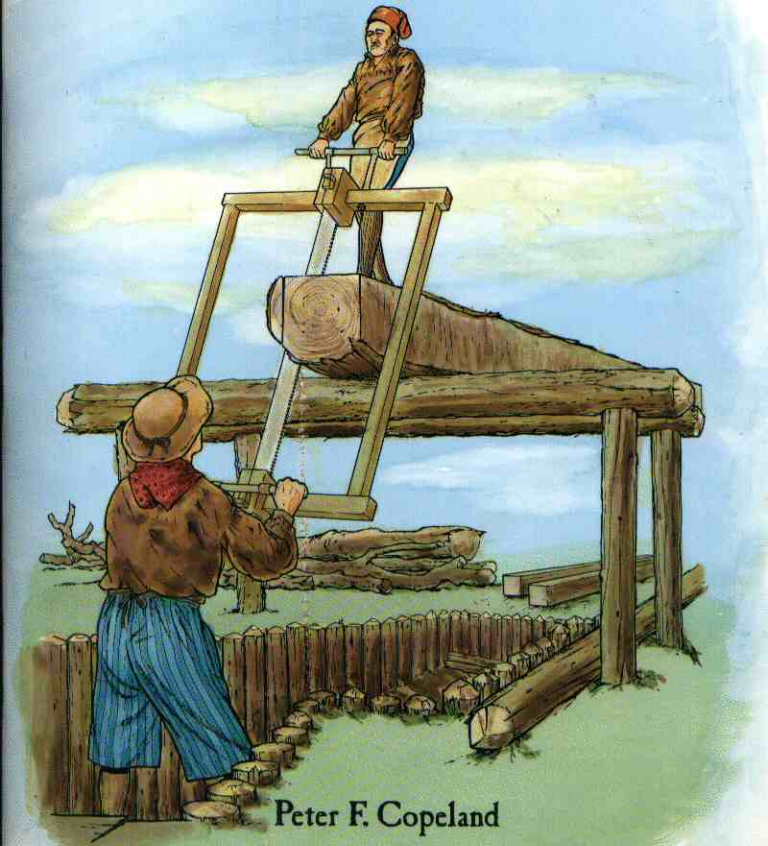
Dover Coloring Book

Early American CRAFTS AND OCCUPATIONS Coloring Book



Peter F. Copeland

EARLY AMERICAN CRAFTS AND OCCUPATIONS

Coloring Book

Peter F. Copeland

DOVER PUBLICATIONS, INC.
New York

Introduction

THE THIRTEEN North American colonies of Great Britain that declared their independence in 1776 were Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia. They lay along the Atlantic coast between Canada and Spanish Florida. The people of these colonies came mostly from Britain, Scotland and Ireland, with a considerable addition from Germany. The Netherlands, Sweden and France also contributed a smaller share.

A sizable portion of the population, especially in the southern colonies, was made up of unwilling immigrants—Africans brought to the New World in slavery and sold into a lifetime of unpaid labor, a condition of perpetual servitude that would descend to their children.

This book shows how some ordinary people made a living in colonial days: the work they did and the skills in which they specialized. Some of the trades shown here required very special skills, while others were performed by ordinary laborers and required little more than a strong back.

PETER F. COPELAND

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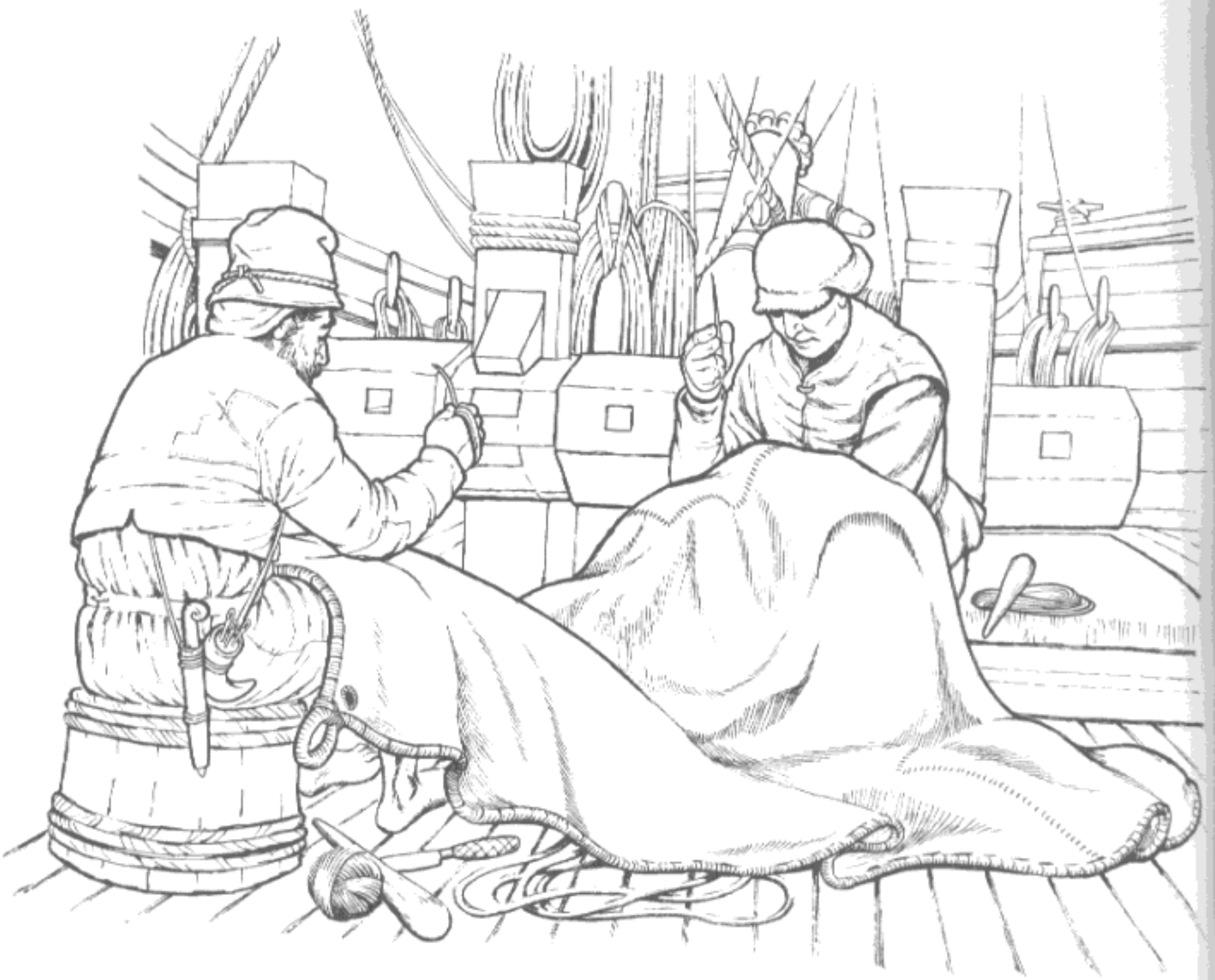
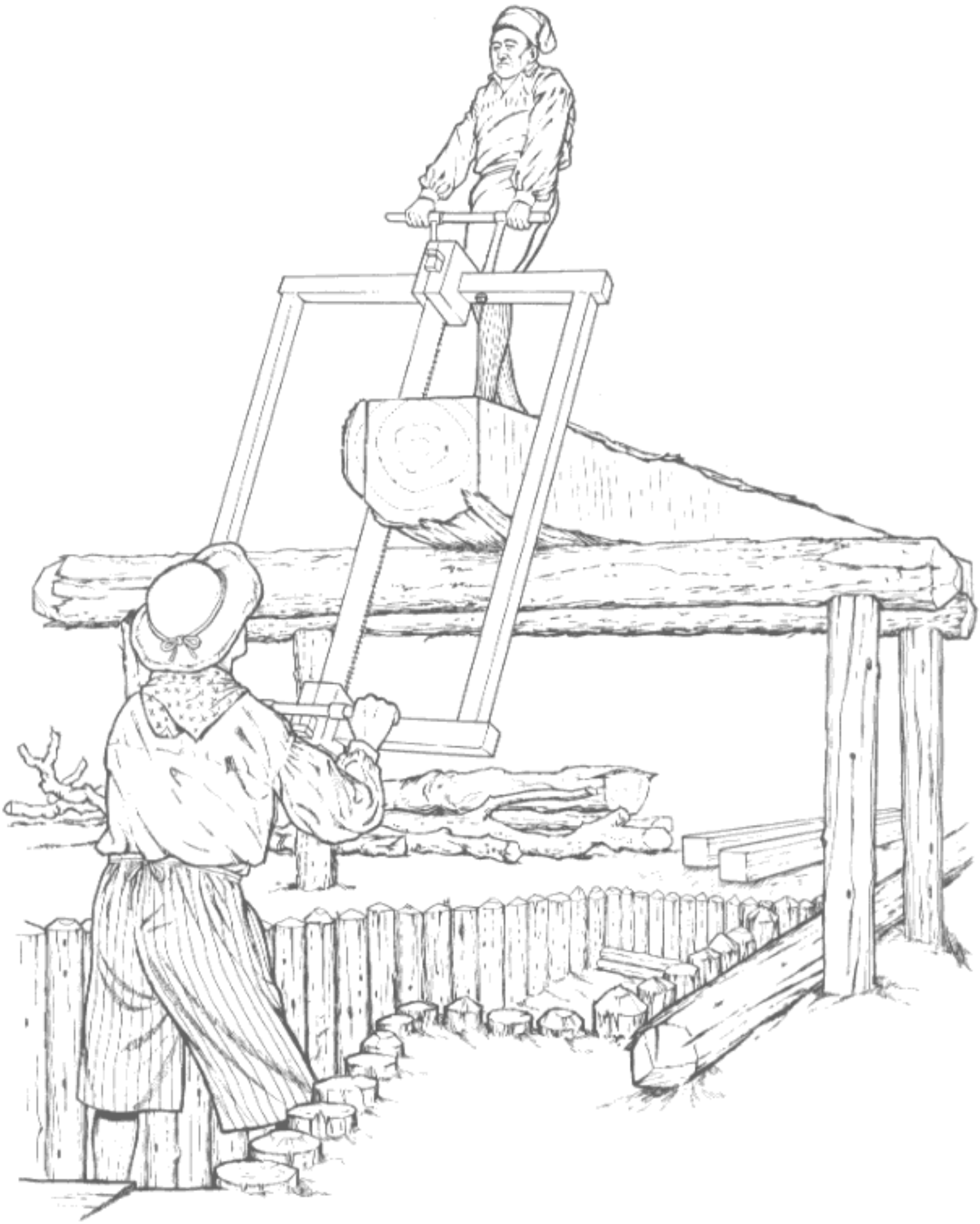
Servants in a great house of 1760. Seen here are members of the kitchen staff and a footman, servants in the house of a wealthy merchant. The cook and scullery boy wear white cotton clothing, the usual dress for kitchen staff, while the footman wears a fancy livery coat, edged in the colors of the family he serves.



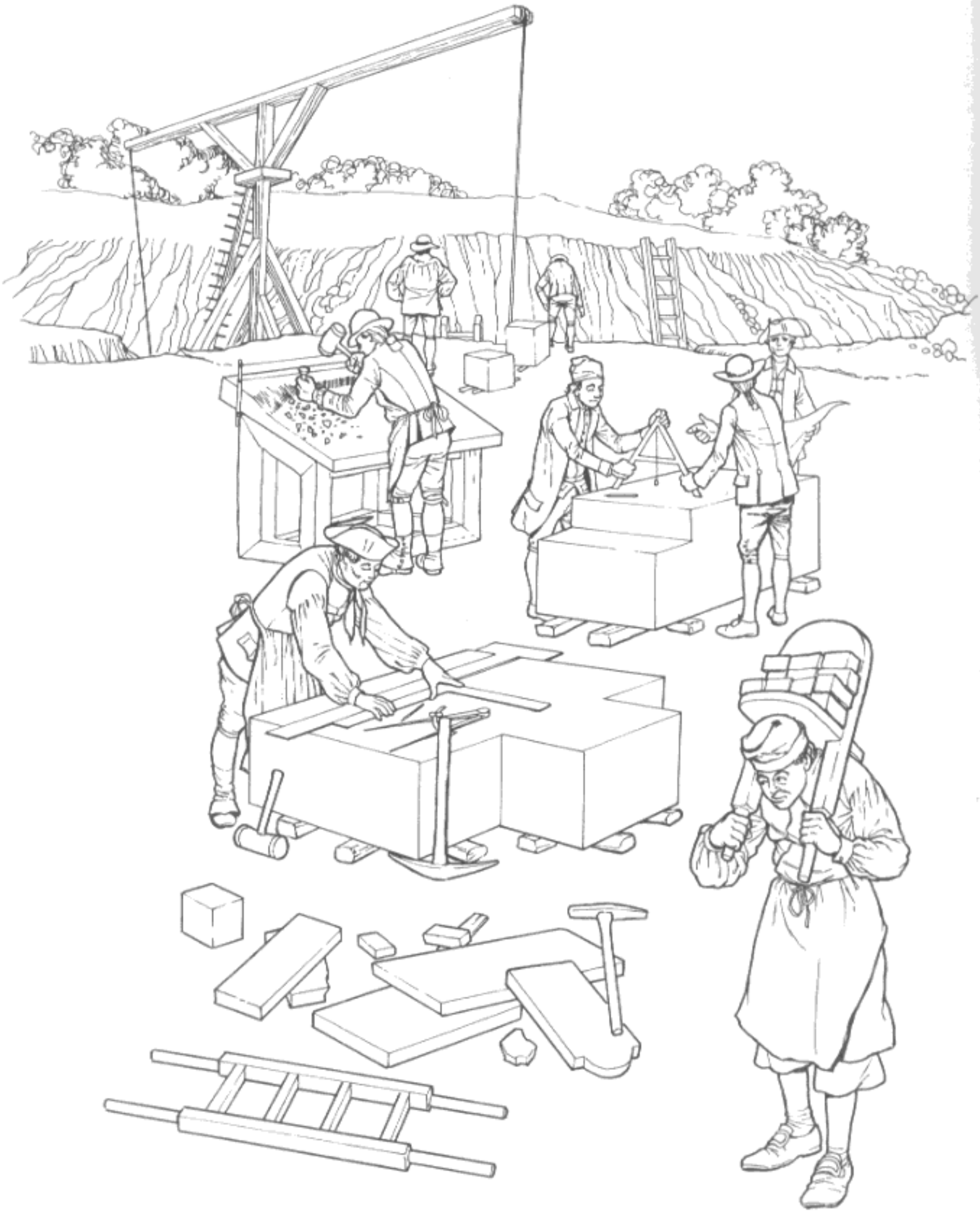
Sailmakers of 1650. This sailmaker and his apprentice are members of the crew of a small coastal sailing ship of 1650. They are mending a sail that is spread out between them; both are sewing patches with needles and waxed sail twine. The sailmaker wears a knife and a wax-filled horn that holds his needles. Both men have wooden fids (large pins used in rope splicing) and balls or coils of sailmaker's twine.

A herdsman of 1783. This mounted herdsman, or drover, would have resented being called a cowboy, for that term was attached during the Revolutionary War to a green-coated unit of Loyalist soldiers who raided farms around New York City, driving off cattle and burning fields. A hundred years later the cowboys of the Far West would immortalize the name in the annals of American history.



Pit sawyers of 1770. Two sawyers worked as a team to operate a large-framed pit saw. A tree trunk was mounted on trestles and was sawed by the two men, one standing in the pit below and the other on top of the log. With the pit saw, the sawyers cut beams and boards for house and ship construction in the days before the introduction of water-powered lumber mills, which could produce these products more quickly and efficiently.

An itinerant tinker of 1765. The tinker was a traveling repairman, skilled at mending tin, brass and pewter utensils, pots and pans. He carried his tools in a leather portmanteau slung over his shoulder or tied behind his saddle as he rode from village to town.

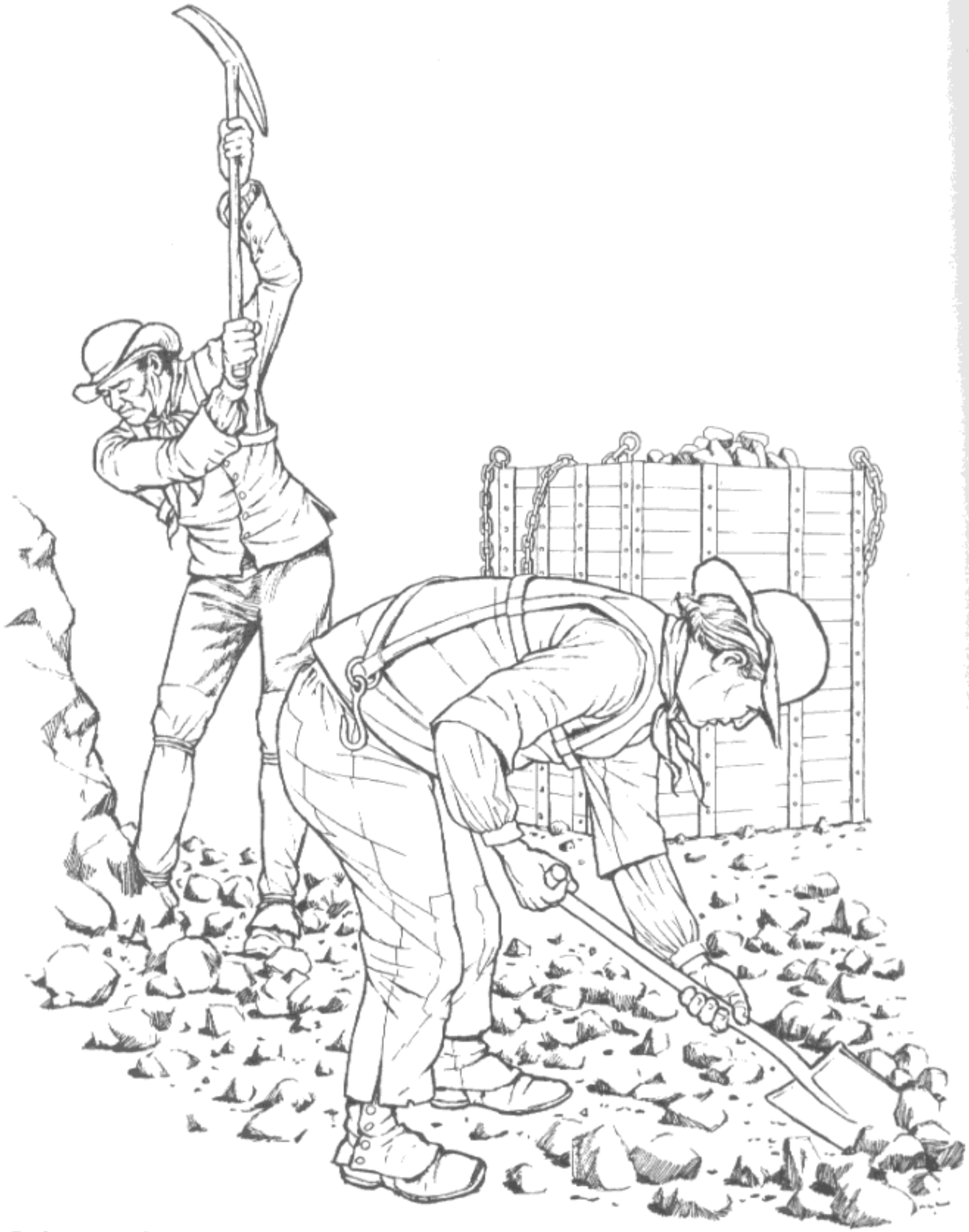


Stonemasons of 1765. The stonemasons in the foreground are measuring and marking stone for cutting into slabs and blocks. Behind them, a stonecutter with hammer and chisel is cutting stone to specifications while the masons in the background supervise the lifting of rough-cut stone from the floor of the quarry. At right an apprentice mason carries a hod of cut paving stones.

A "rabbit woman," 1781. This unusually named street peddler sold rabbits, game birds and vegetables on the streets of New York City during the last years of the American Revolution. She wears a British soldier's cast-off red coat. Street peddlers were a familiar sight for many years in the streets of American cities and towns.

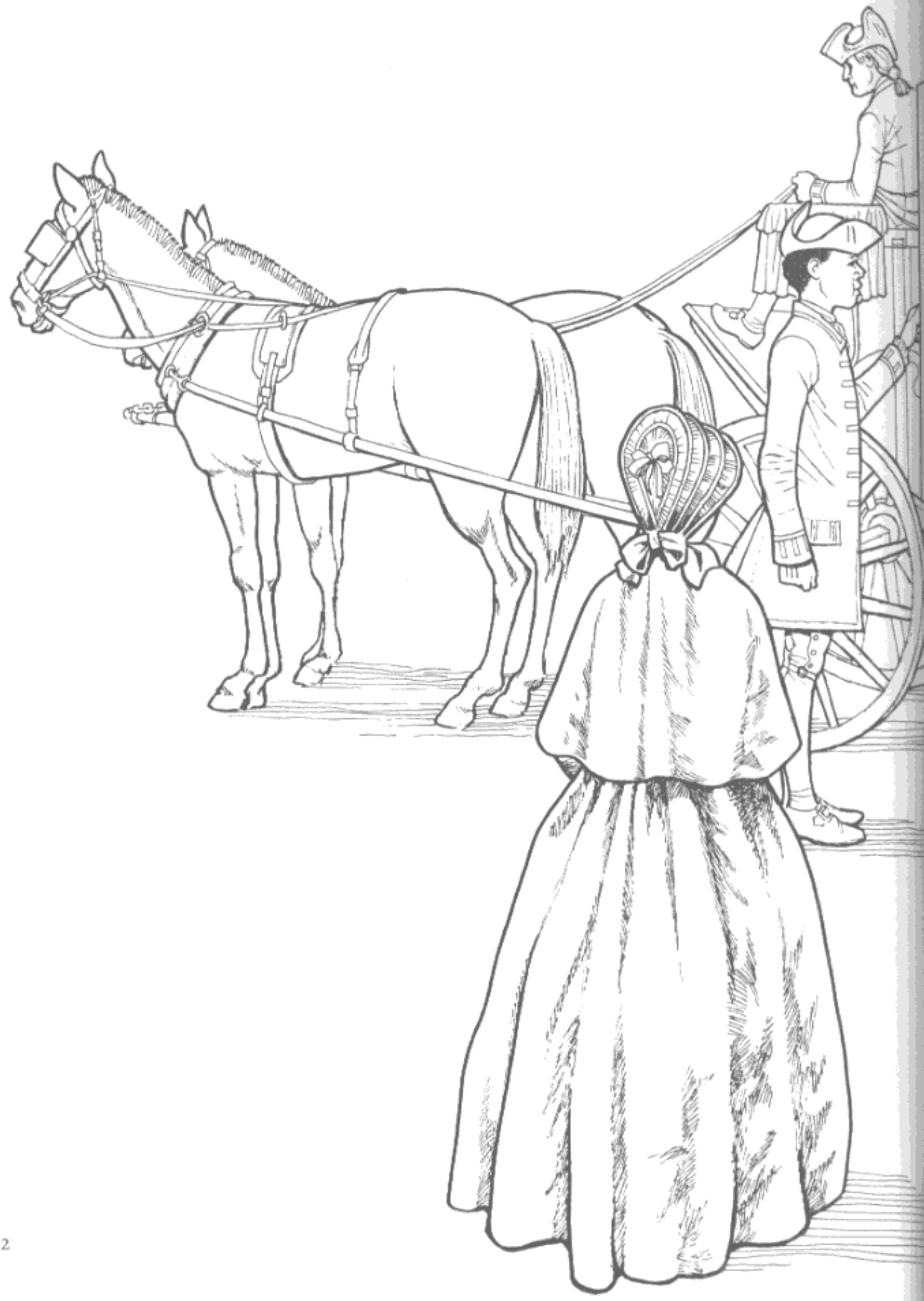
A potter of 1775. The humble earthenware pots and jugs produced by this rural potter at his wheel were cheap and not to be compared with the silver vessels and fine Staffordshire china used by the wealthy folk, but they served the needs of the simple farm people who were his customers. The potter turns his wheel with his bare feet as he shapes the pot, continually wetting the clay with water.

A miller of 1772. The miller operated his mill, maintained his machinery and procured his own millstones, which he dressed or sharpened periodically. Local farmers were his customers. The miller ground their grain into flour in exchange for a portion of each sack he ground. The stream and millpond often provided the miller and his family with fresh fish and eels.



Coal miners of 1765. Coal was mined with pick, shovel and crowbar and by blasting with black powder. The miners wore leather harnesses over their shoulders to hook onto and drag the loaded coal wagons through the mine shaft to a place where the coal would be hoisted in buckets to the surface. English miners wore hats of heavy leather, with tubes in front for holding candles.

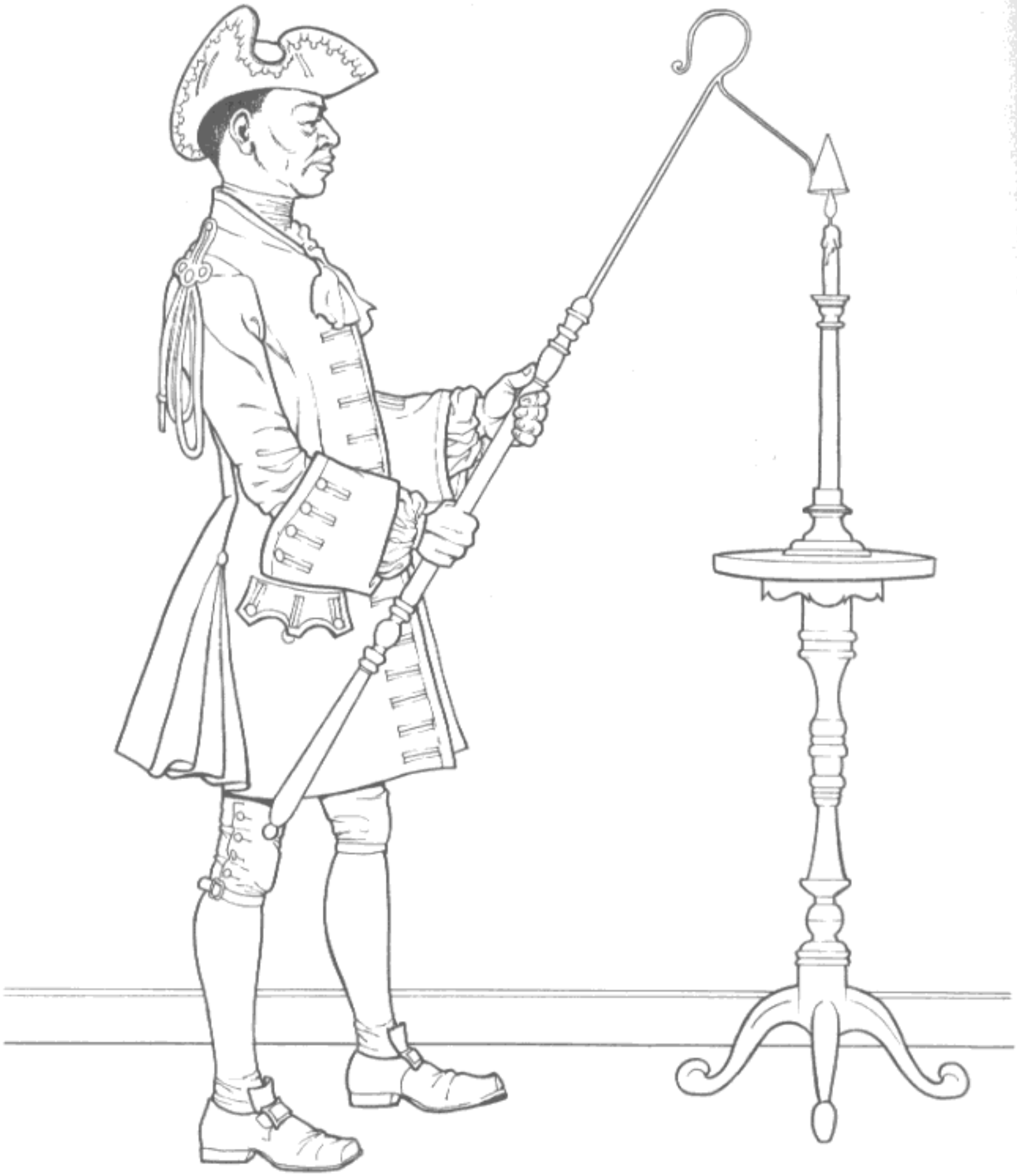
Textile dyeing in 1735. In the process of weaving homespun cloth, the colonial housewife dipped the thread she had spun from sheep's wool into a pot of boiling dye. She prepared the dye from walnut shells for shades of brown or pokeweed berries for shades of red. To get a dark blue shade she boiled indigo plants of the pea family.



The family coach at a southern plantation in 1775. This vehicle was manned by a coachman, who drove the horses (and cleared the road of obstructions with an axe when necessary), a footman and sometimes a postillion, who rode astride one of the carriage horses.

A basket weaver of 1730. The basket weaver practiced an antique art. The basic types of baskets—coiled, twined, wrapped, plaited and wickerwork—were all developed in ancient times. This basket weaver sits on a bench in the middle of his shop, fashioning a deep wicker basket. On an adjacent bench are the tools of his trade—knife, shears, hatchet and hammer—and around him are some of his completed baskets.

Spinning wool in 1690. The simplest type of spinning wheel was the wool wheel, shown here. The spinner had to stand up when operating it. She held the wool in her left hand and rotated the wheel with her right hand. As the spindle began to turn with the wheel, she pulled the wool into a long, thin strip that twisted into thread as it ran onto the spindle. It took many turns of the wheel before the spindle was full of thread.



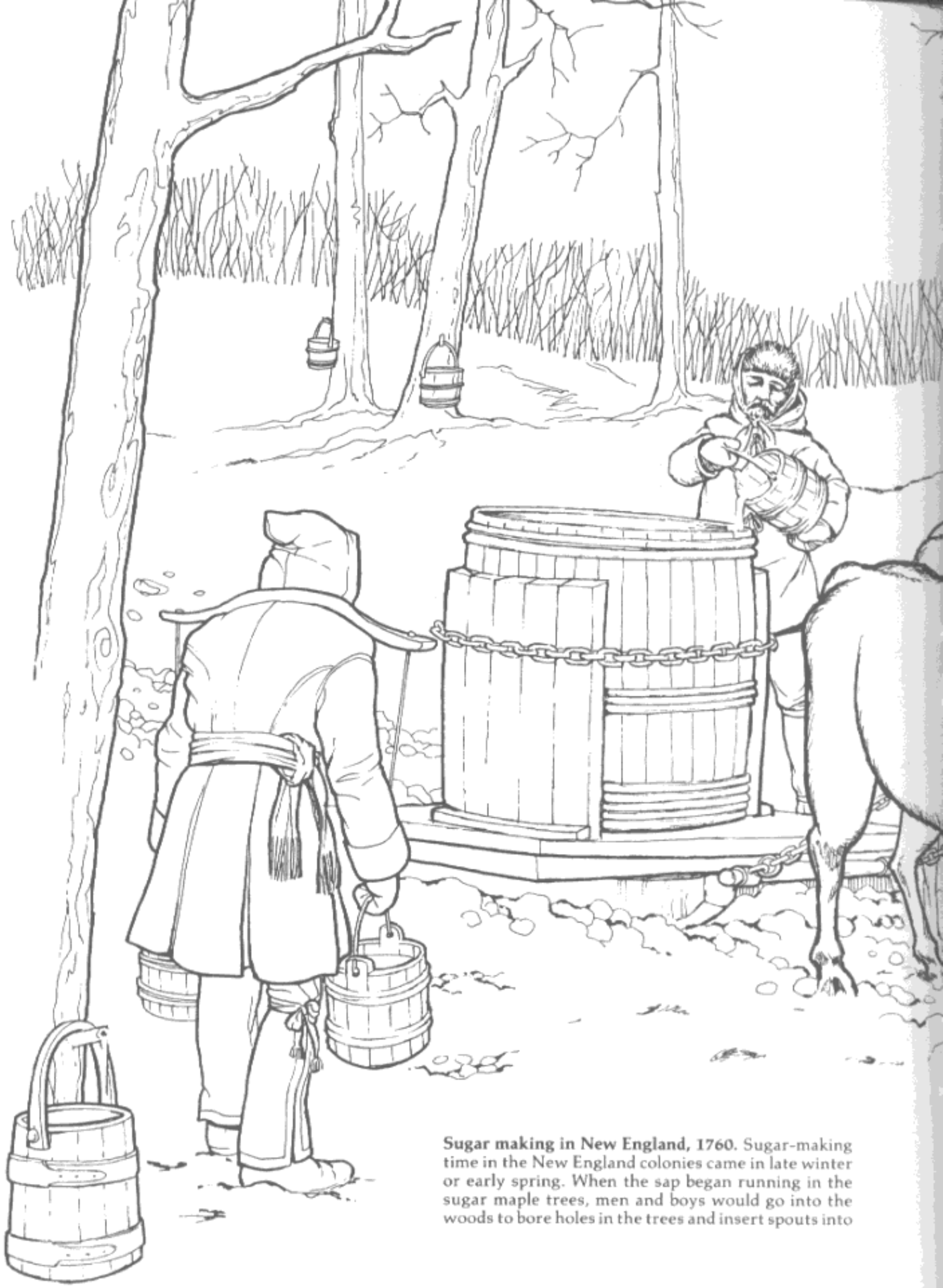
Butler with a candlesnuffer at a large plantation house in 1745. In slaveholding times the staff of a large plantation was divided into house servants and field hands. The butler was chief of the house servants. Footmen, postillions, coachmen, hostlers, valets and housemaids—servants whose duties brought them into contact with the Master and Mistress—were, like the butler, dressed in livery trimmed in the colors of the plantation family. Thus, the slaves of George Washington at Mount Vernon wore white and red livery, the colors of the Washington family coat of arms.

A peddler of tinware in 1780. A familiar sight along city streets was the peddler of pots and pans. He carried on his wagon cooking utensils, tubs, buckets, pots and skillets—almost anything made of tin, and some copper and iron items as well. Like other itinerant vendors, he called out as he passed along the street, alerting the residents to his approach.

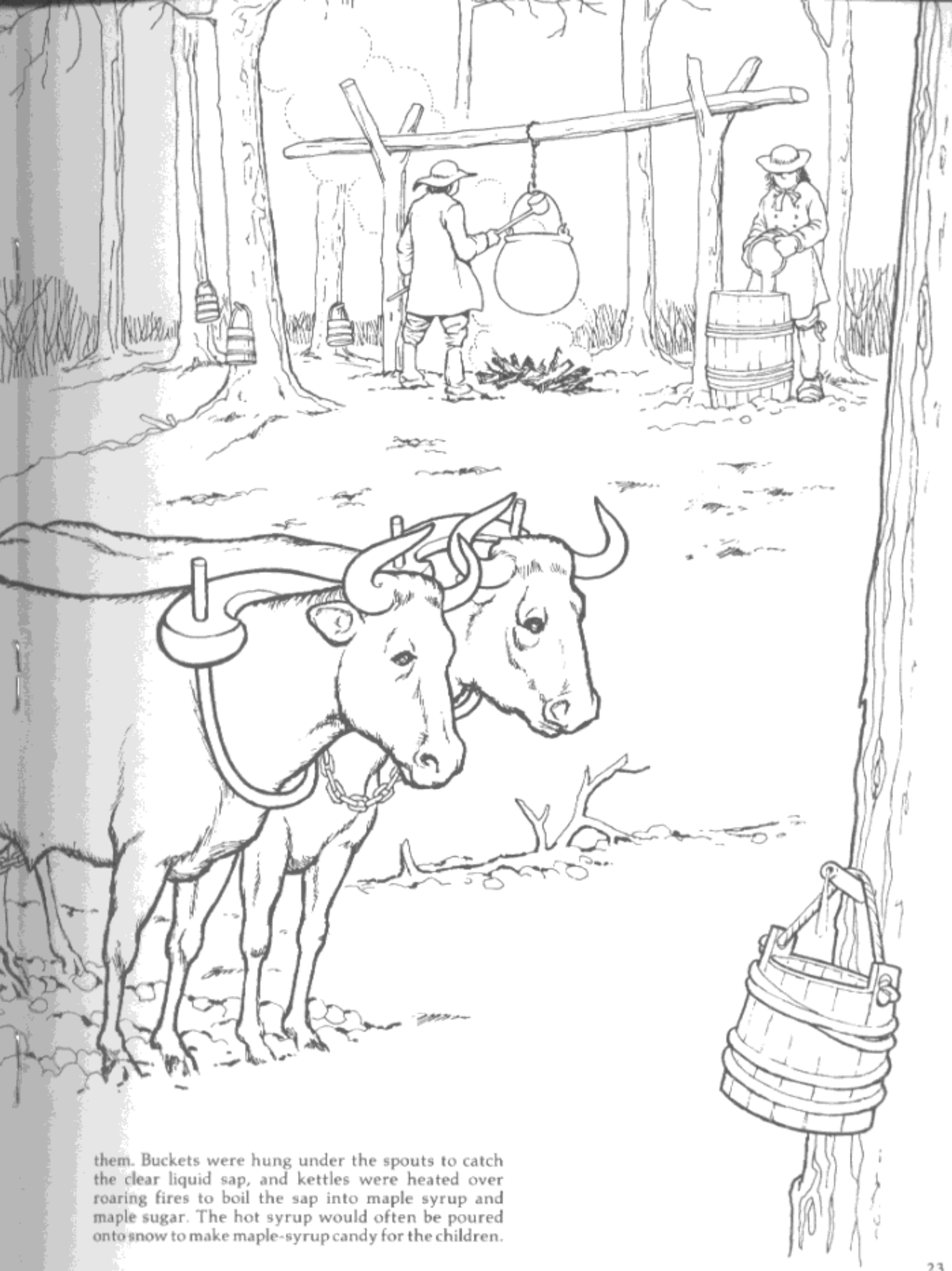
Cannon founders in 1779. These foundry workers are completing a core model of a large muzzle-loading bronze cannon. The model is the first stage in the manufacture of the gun. A mold is then made upon the model, separated from it, hardened with fire and buried in a casting pit. Molten bronze is poured into the mold as it stands upright in a casting pit, thus casting the cannon.

Coach and carriage makers of 1762. The skilled workers employed in the shop of the coach and carriage maker specialized in fine cabinet work, upholstering, gilding, joining and harness making. They produced coaches, carriages, two-wheeled cabriolets, chariots and sedan chairs.

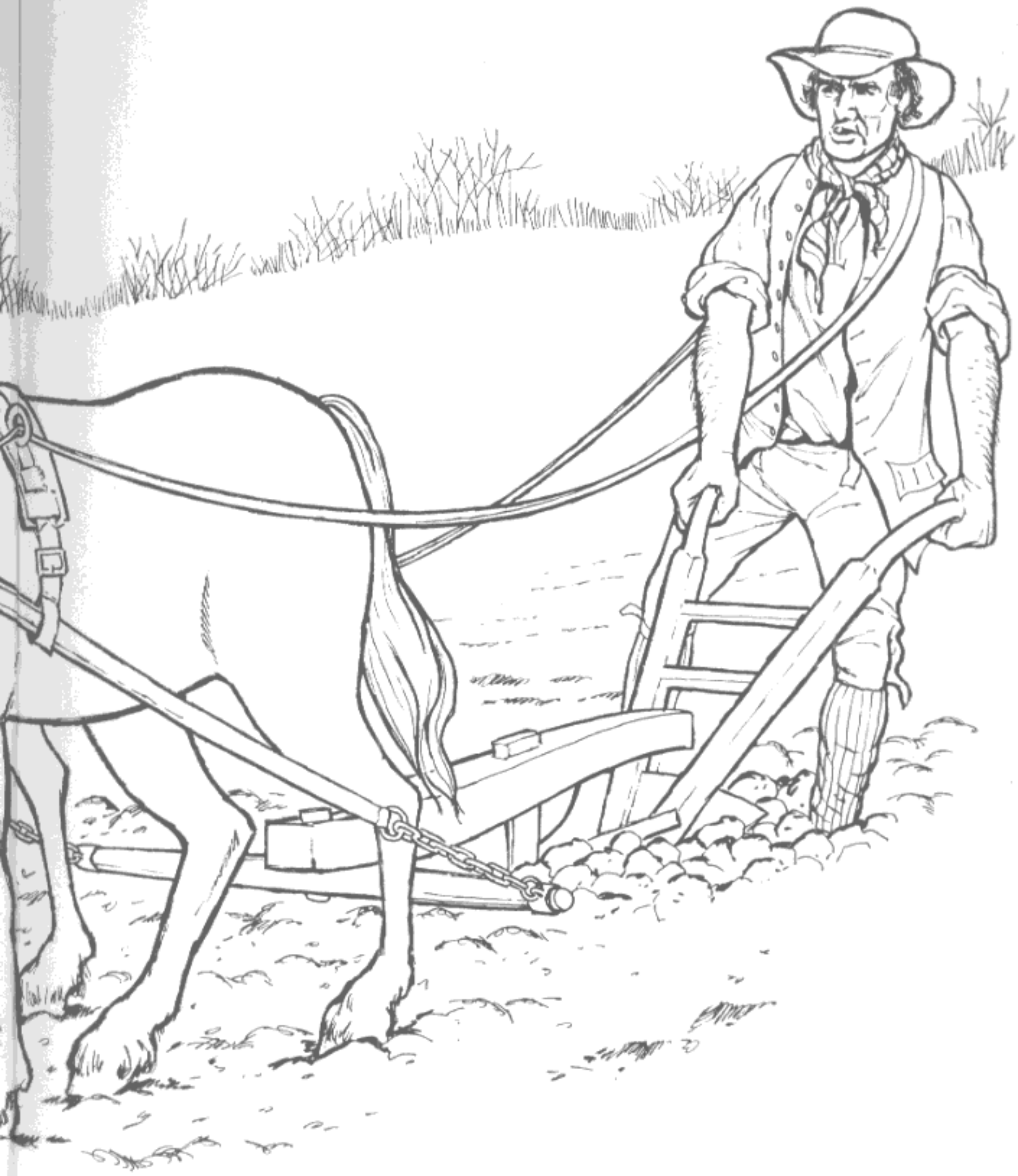
Carding wool in 1770. The manufacture of woolen cloth began after the sheep were sheared. The raw wool was cleaned of burrs and tangles and washed. It was then carded, or drawn between cards bearing stiff wire bristles. The carder would stroke the card across the wool until it was soft and fluffy.



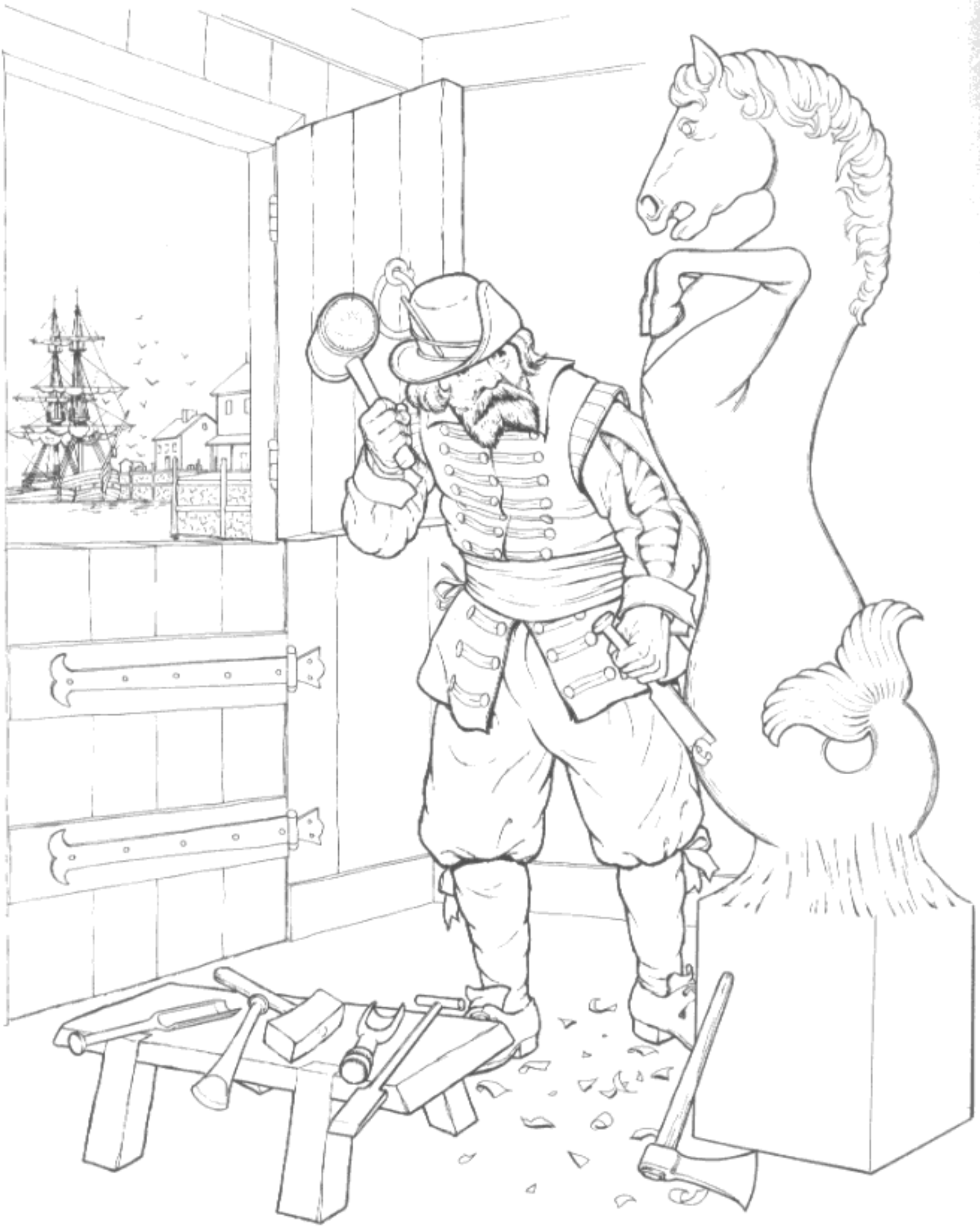
Sugar making in New England, 1760. Sugar-making time in the New England colonies came in late winter or early spring. When the sap began running in the sugar maple trees, men and boys would go into the woods to bore holes in the trees and insert spouts into



them. Buckets were hung under the spouts to catch the clear liquid sap, and kettles were heated over roaring fires to boil the sap into maple syrup and maple sugar. The hot syrup would often be poured onto snow to make maple-syrup candy for the children.



Plowing a field in New England in 1765. Most colonial people were farmers. Many New Englanders living along the Atlantic coast were part-time farmers and part-time fishermen. The New England soil was thin and rocky and the winters were long. The farmer had a team of oxen or horses to drag his plow through the stony soil. Here his son guides the team to avoid rocky outcroppings.

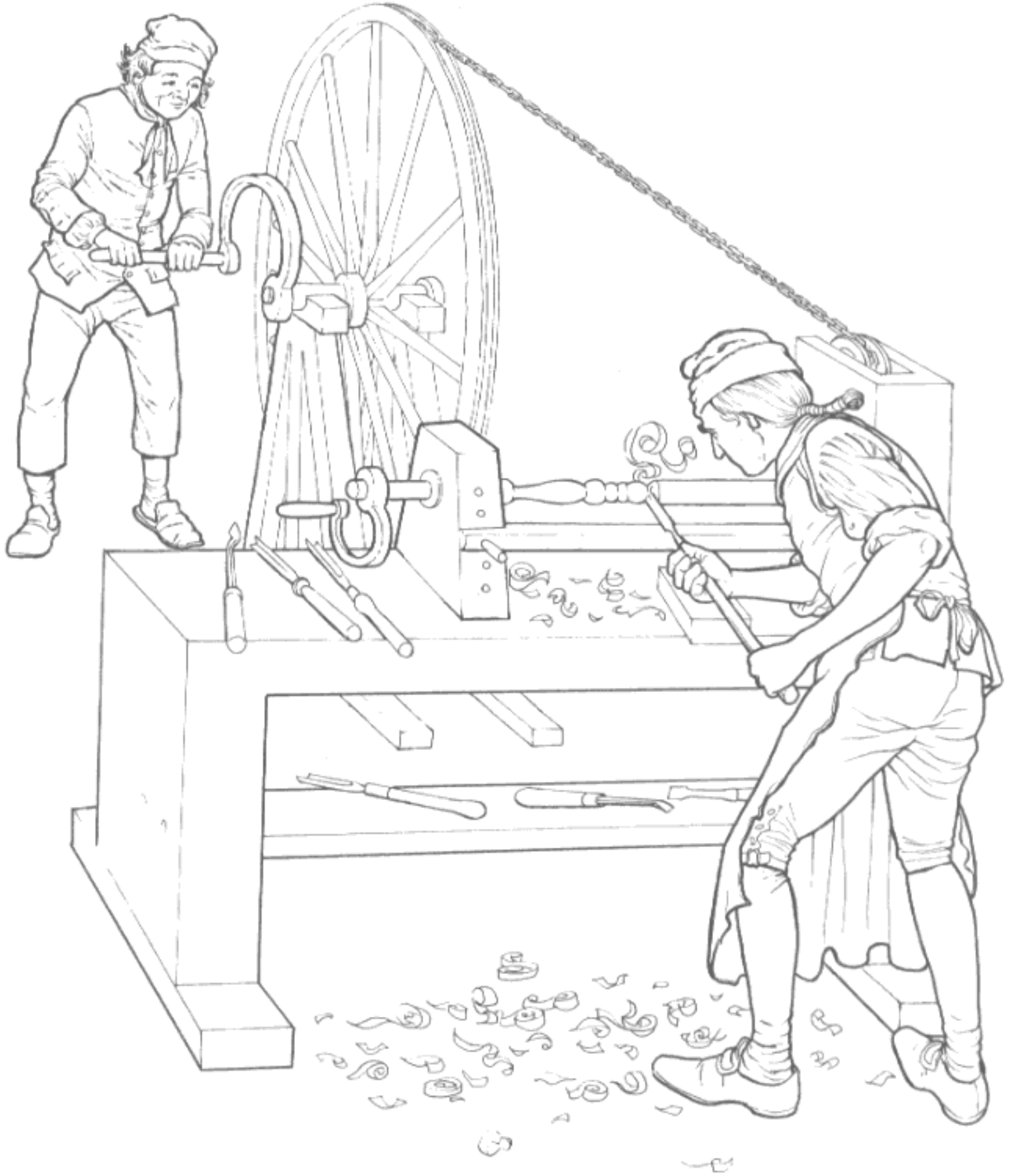


A ship carver of 1675. Somewhere down near the wharves in a seventeenth-century seaport the ship carver had his shop. He sculpted wooden figureheads, elaborate decorations and scrollwork for men-of-war and large merchant ships as well as simpler designs for smaller vessels.

A wagonwright of 1775. The wagonwright built wagons, carts, plows and harrows. The wagonwright seen here is using a tapered auger to shape the center hole for the axle spindle of a wagon.

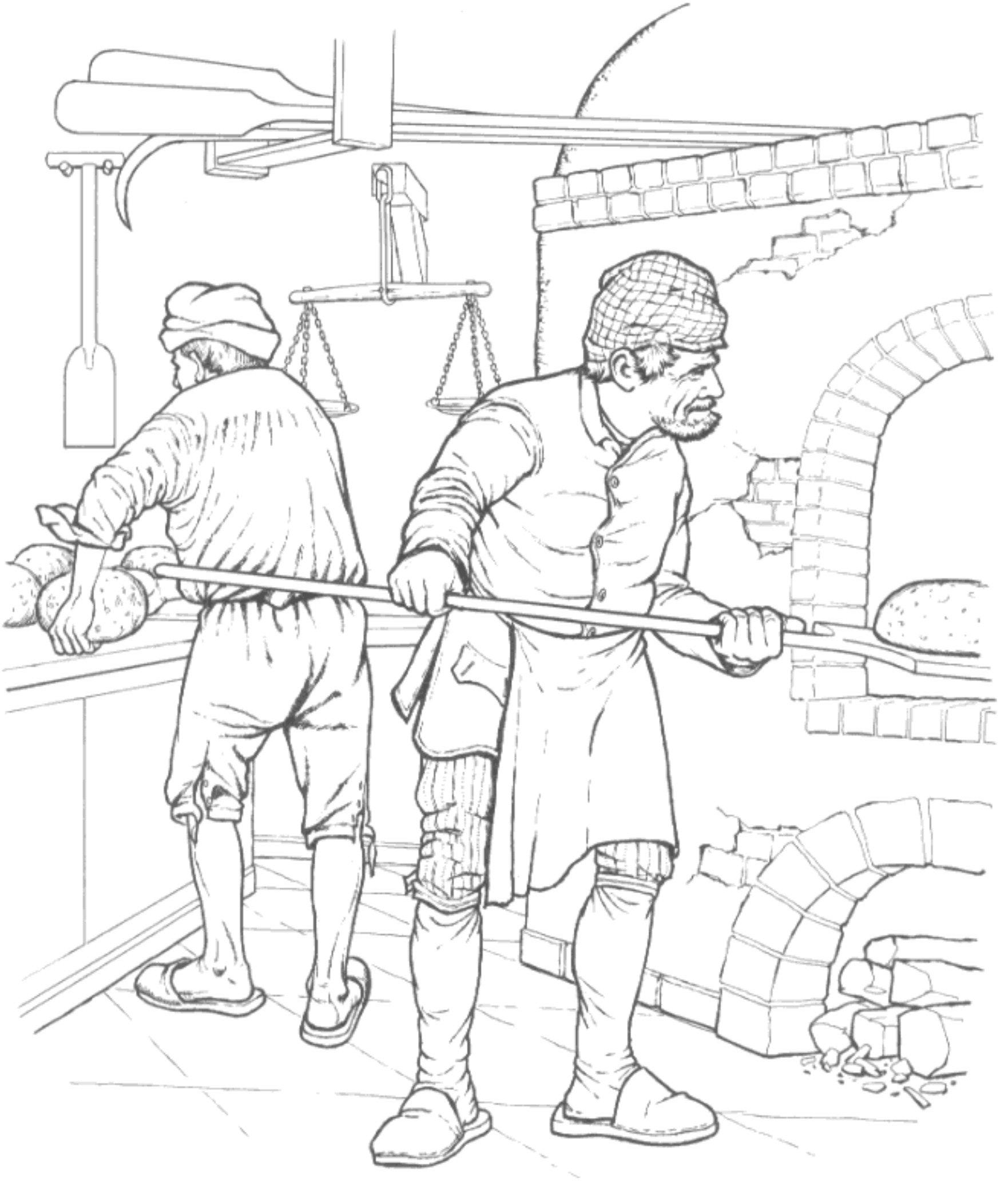
Brickmaking in 1774. Two brickmakers are shown using an ox-powered pug mill to manufacture bricks. Wet clay is poured into the mill, where it is cut by a descending spiral of iron spikes and forced downward through a hole at the bottom. The mold man stands in a pit and presses the worked clay into wetted wooden brick molds. After the top surface of the mold was scraped smooth, the shaped bricks would be dumped out to dry in the sun for several weeks.

Locksmiths of 1680. The locksmith in the foreground is using a file to shape a piece of metal in a vise for the face plate of a large door lock. On his workbench are some of his tools, a door lock and some iron keys. The other smith is fashioning a door hinge upon an anvil; behind him are the locksmiths' forge and racks containing tools and padlocks.



Furniture maker of 1765. This master furniture maker is working with a great wheel lathe. The piece of wood to be turned is fixed in the lathe, which is driven by a young apprentice. The master cuts his design in the rotating block with a lathe chisel, stopping periodically to measure his work with a pair of calipers. The furniture maker used his lathe to make legs, stretchers and backposts for chairs as well as table legs.

A broommaker of 1680. This broommaker is pulling the cord binding of a broom taut while his apprentice chops off the excess straw at the top of a broom sheath preparatory to affixing a handle to it. In the rear of the broom shop are bundles of broom straw; in the foreground are various types of completed brooms and whisks.



A baker at his oven in 1690. This baker is removing a round loaf from the oven using a peel—a wooden shovel-like instrument, two more of which are stored in the ceiling rack (and a shorter counterpart of which hangs on the back wall). The apprentice baker is shaping other loaves in preparation for baking.

Barrowman clearing a field in 1755. The barrowman's horse is hitched to a large wooden wheelbarrow and is led by a boy. The barrowman, who is clearing a farmer's field for planting, is digging out and carting away rocks and tree stumps, using a shovel, a pick and a long iron pinch bar.

Night-soil carters in Philadelphia, 1776. Colonial homes did not have indoor plumbing, so the night-soil carters went from house to house in the early morning, collecting the contents of chamber pots. This material was then dumped into the night cart, shown at rear.

A chairmender of 1742. As there were too few open markets and shops in the cities of colonial America to serve the needs of the entire population, street vendors became, as they were in Europe, a necessary and colorful part of the city scene. This chairmender carries, slung from a stick, a bundle of rushes for caning and mending chair seats. He carries his tools in a chest slung over his shoulder and walks the streets crying his wares.

A water-cart driver of 1760. Colonial houses did not have running water as most houses do today. In town, water had to be drawn at the city pump and carried home in buckets, sometimes over long distances. The driver of the water cart delivered fresh water drawn from a nearby river or stream door-to-door for a modest sum, saving the householder much time and effort.

A farm stand on a market day, 1778. On market days farm folk for miles around gathered and set up stands to sell or barter the surplus commodities—such as vegetables, chickens, butter, honey, soap, cloth and cattle—that each family produced at home (there were no shops or stores as we know them in farm communities of those days). During the lean period of the American Revolution, when the Continental Army was encamped at Valley Forge for the winter of 1777–78, local farmers set up a market near the camp and traded with the soldiers.

A tavernkeeper of 1740. The landlord of a colonial tavern was frequently the best-known man in town. The tavern of colonial days was an inn, public house, restaurant, wineshop and place of entertainment for weary travelers. The tavernkeeper was often the owner of an adjoining farm and a field officer of the local militia, a man of substance and importance in the community. This tavernkeeper treats a shivering coachman to a piping-hot rum toddy.

An oysterman, 1768. The oysterman peddled a very perishable commodity. His oysters, purchased from a fishmonger along the waterfront, had to be packed in ice, hurried on foot to the center of town and hawked through the streets before they spoiled. It is not likely that he had much time for lavishing compliments on pretty young ladies, as seen here.

A sign painter of 1742. The painter turned his hand to a variety of tasks. He painted signs, did occasional portraits, painted houses, whitewashed barns and fences and gilded picture frames. Many painters of colonial days were wanderers, roaming the countryside prepared to undertake any suitable task and ready to accept payment in room and board if necessary. The painter seen here is retouching a tavern sign that celebrates the victory of Admiral John Benbow over the French in 1702.

A town crier of 1700. Few newspapers were available to the average colonial American; instead, town criers delivered the news of the day. The crier walked through the streets ringing his bell to get attention. Once a crowd had gathered, the crier announced the day's official news to the assembly.

Tobacco harvesting in colonial Virginia, 1780. Cultivation of tobacco in Virginia created a demand for labor that planters solved by importing black men, women and children from the West Indian slave markets, to which slave traders shipped their captives from the west coast of Africa. Those slaves employed

in farm labor were called field hands. Shown are slaves hoeing and gathering tobacco leaves. In the background, right, a group of women are being ordered into the fields; at left the fashionably dressed overseer can be seen supervising the day's work.

A shinglemaker of 1749. This shinglemaker is an apprentice cooper, or barrelmaker. He is seated at a "shaving horse," a type of woodworkers' bench, shaping wood for barrel hoops with a two-handled drawing knife. With his foot he operates the clamp that holds fast the wood to be cut or shaved.

Mowers making hay, 1779. Mowers were employed at harvesttime to cut oats, barley and wheat and to make hay at haying time. The mower sharpened his scythe with a stone that he carried in a leather sheath attached to his belt. These mowers are cutting grass for hay; after it is cut, it is spread over the ground to dry. The dried hay is then collected into windrows, pitched into carts and carried to haystacks. Later the hay will be stored in a silo to be used as cattle feed during the winter months.

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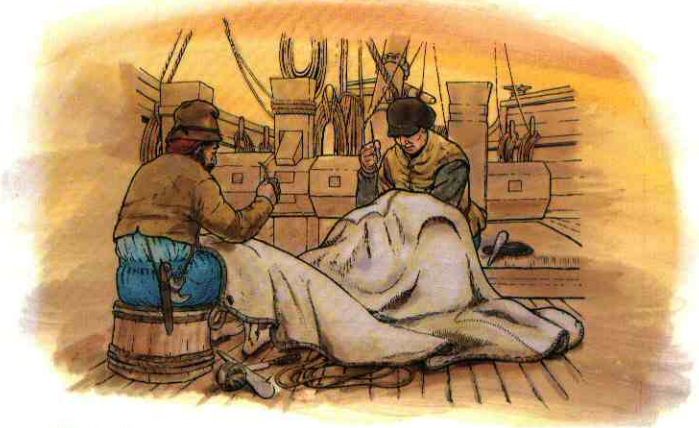

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Peter F. Copeland

Travel back in time over 300 years for an authentic glimpse of typical occupations practiced in colonial America from the mid-seventeenth to the late eighteenth century. Artist Peter Copeland makes it possible in this carefully researched and meticulously rendered coloring book. Forty lively scenes—five of them double-page—depict a variety of trades- and craftspeople: the watercart driver, who supplied townspeople with fresh water daily for a small fee; the town crier, a colonial version of today's TV newscaster; the tinker, a traveling repairman; and many more.

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